

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 08942 080947Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 /097 W

----- 038568

O R 080920Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3138

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USFJ FUCHU JAPAN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: LDP RETAINS SLIM UPPER HOUSE MAJORITY

SUMMARY: LDP APPEARS TO HAVE SAFELY RETAINED SLIM MAJORITY FOLLOWING RECORD TURNOUT FOR JULY 7 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, HOWEVER, FINAL RESULTS WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY TALLY IS COMPLETED LATE TONIGHT. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTRADICTING PRESS POLLS WHICH INDICATED MASSIVE PUBLIC APATHY TOWARD ELECTION, RECORD NUMBER OF VOTERS TURNED OUT JULY 7 FOR UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, MANY BRAVING HEAVY RAINS TRIGGERED BY TYPHOON GILDA TO CAST BALLOTS. ESTIMATED VOTING RATE OF 73.2 PERCENT TOPPED PREVIOUS HIGH SET IN 1950 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. MOST COMMENTARY ATTRIBUTED RECORD TURNOUT TO STRONG INTEREST OF ELECTORATE IN SUCH ISSUES AS INFLATION AND EDUCATION, AND CONTROVERSY OVER HEAVY ELECTION EXPENDITURES AND ROLE OF BIG CORPORATIONS IN CAMPAIGN. FACT THAT POLLS WERE KEPT OPEN AN ADDITIONAL HOUR UNTIL SEVEN PM MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN FACTOR.

2. WITH ALMOST ALL LOCAL CONSTITUENCY VOTES COUNTED,
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 08942 080947Z

ALLOCATION OF 76 CONTESTED PREFECTURAL SEATS WAS LDP (43),

JSP (18), KOMEITO (5), JCP (5), DSP (1), AND INDEPENDENTS (4).
IN NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY, WITH 52 PERCENT OF VOTE
COUNTED, PARTY TOTALS WERE: LDP (14), JSP (7),
KOMEITO (5), JCP (1), DSP (3), AND INDEPENDENTS
(2). WITH 22 SEATS STILL TO BE DETERMINED IN NATIONAL
CONSTITUENCY, NHK COMPUTER, INCORPORATING UNCONTESTED SEATS,
PROJECTED FOLLOWING FINAL OVERALL TOTALS: LDP (129), JSP (63),
KOMEITO (24), JCP (18), DSP (9), AND INDEPENDENTS (9),

3. LDP WON SEATS IN 24 OF 26 SINGLE-SEAT LOCAL CONSTITUENCIES,
LOSING ONLY IN OKINAWA AND IN TOKUESHIMA, WHERE INCUMBENT
KENTARO KUJIME (RUNNING AS INDEPENDENT) DEFEATED PRIMIN TANAKA'S
HAND-PICKED LDP-ENDORESED CANDIDATE MASAHARU GOTODA. LDP WAS
ABLE TO CAPTURE BOTH SEATS IN ONLY ONE OF 15 TWO-SEAT
CONSTITUENCIES, KUMAMOTO. IN BIGGEST UPSET OF ELECTION
LDP FAILED TO GAIN SINGLE SEAT IN HOKKAIDO WHERE ALL FOUR SEATS
TAKEN BY OPPOSITION - TWO BY JSP AND ONE EACH BY JCP AND KOMEITO.
DEFEAT OF TWO LDP INCUMBENTS CLEARLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO CANDIDACY OF
SEIRANKAI-BACKED INDEPENDENT TATSUO TAKAHASHI, WHO SOAKED UP OVER
300,000 CONSERVATIVE VOTES.

4. OTHER UNEXPECTED LDP SETBACKS INCLUDED DEFEAT OF INCUMBENT
IN FUKUOKA WHERE VICTORIES BY JSP AND KOMEITO CANDIDATES LEFT
LDP WITH ONLY ONE OF THESE SEATS. FAILURE TO WIN BOTH SEATS
IN NIIGATA, PRIMIN TANAKA'S HOMEGROUNDS, ALSO EMBARRASSED LDP.

5. EFFORTS AT OPPOSITION ELECTORAL COOPERATION ENDED IN NEAR
TOTAL FAILURE AS JSP-JCP COMBINATION IN KOCHI, AND JSP-KOMEITO
COMBINATIONS IN TOYAMA, WAKAYAMA, KUMAMOTO AND TOTTORI WERE
UNABLE TO PRODUCE SINGLE WINNER. ONLY EXCEPTION, AND RATHER
SPECIAL CASE, WAS OKINAWA WHERE INCUMBENT JOINT REFORMIST
CANDIDATE SHINEI KYAN DEFEATED LDP OPPONENT.

6. EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF DIET, REQUIRED BY LAW FOLLOWING
ELECTION, NOW EXPECTED TO BE CONVENED ABOUT JULY 20 FOR BRIEF
PERIOD, PRIMARILY TO ORGANIZE UPPER HOUSE.
CULBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UPPER HOUSE, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO08942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740180-0600
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740767/aaaacffk.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LDP RETAINS SLIM UPPER HOUSE MAJORITY SUMMARY: LDP APPEARS TO HAVE SAFELY RETAINED SLIM MAJORITY
TAGS: PINT, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005